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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT Activities of the Communist-Dominated Labor Unions

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1. On various dates in December 1948, delegates from Mustafa 'Aris' Federation of Trade Unions met with Soviet Legation officials Vladimir Ivanov and Feodor Pissarenko. On one occasion Aleksandr Sergeyev also was present. At these meetings it was decided to protest to the United Nations against the arrest of Mustafa 'Aris. It was also decided to hold a meeting of the unions on 2 January.

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2. The decisions of the Congress of Bulgarian Workers, held in Sofia on 19 December, were transmitted by the Soviet Legation to the Federation of Unions and communicated to the Federation's meeting of 2 January. These decisions are reported to have included provisions for closer ties with the workers of the Near and Middle East.

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3. Representatives of the Workers' unions ~~met~~ on 2 January 1949 and made the following decisions:

- a. To demand the release of Mustafa 'Aris, Jean Nimir and Malik 'Abd-al-Malik.
- b. To demand increases in wages and to form a committee to study this matter.
- c. To form a committee comprised of one or two representatives from each union and profession, with the legal advisers of the unions, to study Dr. Trad's medical security project, and which would meet on 5 January.
- d. To follow up the application (for a government license) of the Federation of Unions.

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- e. To protest against the issuance of a license to the Typesetters' and Bookbinders' Union, in view of the existence of a union adequately representing the typesetters.
- f. To salute, in the name of the meeting, Mustafa 'Aris and the other imprisoned union members.

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4. The Typesetters' Union met on 2 January at the Federation of Unions Club and decided the following:

- a. To present a protest against the trial of Mustafa 'Aris and his two comrades to the President of the Republic.
- b. To send a delegation to the Prime Minister to submit the same protest and to demand the immediate enactment of the social security law.
- c. To hold a party in honor of Hanna Zarqa, on the occasion of his release, at the Union Club on 16 January.
- d. To hold the drawing of the lottery of the Typesetters' Union on 6 February at the Union's office.

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